

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY OBTAINED A COPY OF STA REPORT TITLED QTE OUTLINE OF SURVEY ON DEVELOPMENT OF EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE UNQTE. ACCORDING TO REPORT, STA EXPECTS TO LAUNCH JAPAN'S FIRST EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE (ACRONYM EOS USED IN THIS REPORT) IN 1983 IN ORDER TO OBTAIN USEFUL DATA FOR SURVEY AND UTILIZATION OF MARINE RESOURCES, PROTECTION OF OCEAN ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY OF SHIP NAVIGATION AND PREDICTION OF SHORE DISASTERS.

2. NEED FOR EOS WAS STRESSED THROUGHOUT 98-PAGE JAPANESE-LANGUAGE REPORT RELEASED AUG. 9 BY STA'S RESEARCH COORDINATION BUREAU. SPECIFICALLY, REPORT DISCUSSES ROLES OF EOS AND NEED FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT IN JAPAN (PART I), SATELLITE MISSIONS IN 14 AREAS OF USE (PART II), STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR SATELLITE AND SENSOR TECHNOLOGY (PART III), AND PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR EOS DEVELOPMENT (PART IV).

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3. STA'S PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EOS IN NEXT 10-15 YEARS ARE PRESENTED IN LAST PART. FOLLOWING IS GIST OF PROPOSED EOS DEVELOPMENT AND LAUNCHING PROGRAM:

4. RATIONALE: EOS NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED NOT ONLY TO MEET DOMESTIC NEEDS SUCH AS SECURING AND DEVELOPMENT OF

MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES; MONITORING MARINE ENVIRONMENT; MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND WATER SOURCES; PREDICTION OF DISASTERS, AND LAND USE PLANNING; BUT ALSO TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA.

5. JAPANESE EOS WILL BE DEVELOPED IN TWO STAGES: DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE OBSERVATION SATELLITE WILL PRECEDE THAT OF LAND OBSERVATION SATELLITE, SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE INFORMATION COLLECTION SYSTEM THROUGH EOS IS URGENT NATIONAL REQUIREMENT. SENSORS CARRIED BY EOS FOR MARINE SURVEY PURPOSES ARE VISIBLE/IR RADIOMETER AND PASSIVE MICROWAVE RADIOMETER. THESE SENSORS AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DATA ANALYSES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BY AROUND 1980. DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVE SENSORS (SUCH AS RADAR ALTIMETER) SHOULD ALSO BE DEVELOPED EARLY. JAPAN ALREADY HAS ACHIEVED BROAD TECHNICAL BASE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EOS, ITS LAUNCHING AND DATA PROCESSING. ACCORDINGLY, EOS DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN INDEPENDENTLY, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

6. N LAUNCH VEHICLE (EXISTING OR IMPROVED) WILL BE USED IN ORBITING EOS. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR LAUNCHING FIVE SATELLITES; FIRST SATELLITE IN 1983, SECOND IN 1985, THIRD IN 1987, FOURTH IN 1989 AND FIFTH IN OR ABOUT 1991. INSTRUMENTED SATELLITE WEIGHING ABOUT 600 UNCLASSIFIED

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KG WILL BE PUT IN ORBIT SOME 540 KM ABOVE EARTH'S SURFACE. ALTHOUGH SATELLITE CIRCLES AROUND EARTH EVERY 95 MINUTES OR 15 TIMES A DAY, IT WILL APPEAR OVER JAPAN ONLY ONCE IN EVERY 15 DAYS.

7. COMMENT: STA OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY WOULD REQUEST MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO APPROPRIATE APPROX. 4 BILLION YEN IN FY 1978 FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF SATELLITE AND TRIAL MANUFACTURE OF SENSORS. STA REPORT ON EOS, RELEASED ON HEELS OF ANOTHER VOLUMINOUS REPORT ON LONG-RANGE SPACE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (TOKYO 12021), IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED AS AMMUNITION IN SUPPORT OF THE COMING STA-MOF BATTLE OVER SPACE BUDGET. IN VIEW OF INCREASING INTEREST IN REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN THESE DAYS, AND TANGIBLE BENEFITS EXPECTED OF EOS IN HELPING RESOLVE RESOURCES PROBLEMS IN JAPAN, EOS IDEA STANDS FAIRLY GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED BY MOF. MANSFIELD

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